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Aviation

Monthly Aircraft Movements: Major airports – NAV CANADA Towers and Flight Service Stations, June 2018

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Monthly Aircraft Movements: Major airports – NAV CANADA Towers and Flight Service Stations, June 2018

Analysis

There were 549,294 aircraft take-offs and landings at the 91 Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and flight service stations in June 2018, compared with 530,185 movements in June 2017.

In June 2018, a rise in both itinerant movements (flights from one airport to another) and local movements (flights that remain in the vicinity of the airport) contributed to the year-over-year increase. Itinerant movements were up 2.0% to 388,050 and local movements grew 7.5% to 161,244.

Overall, air traffic increased 3.6% in June 2018, as 51 airports reported more movements from the same month the previous year. Year-over-year variations of more than 1,000 movements were reported at 20 airports. Of these, 15 posted increases, ranging from a growth of 3,767 movements at Red Deer Regional, Alberta, to an increase of 1,018 movements at Edmonton/Villeneuve, Alberta. Decreases ranged from a reduction of 3,213 movements at Langley, British Columbia, to a decline of 1,130 movements at Fredericton International, New Brunswick.

Itinerant traffic increased 2.0%, as 49 airports reported more movements in June 2018. The largest increases were observed at Kitchener/Waterloo, Ontario (+1,215 movements), Red Deer Regional (+1,115) and Montréal/St-Hubert, Quebec (+1,096). The largest reductions in movements were recorded at Langley (-751) and Calgary/Springbank, Alberta (-662).

In June 2018, 51 airports recorded higher levels of local activity as compared to the same month one year ago. As a result, local movements rose by 11,316 movements. Year-over-year variations ranged from an increase of 2,652 movements at Red Deer Regional, to a decrease of 2,462 movements at Langley.

Itinerant movements: domestic, transborder and international

Domestic itinerant movements (within Canada) reached 328,531 in June 2018, a 1.3% increase from the same month the previous year. The largest growth occurred at Kitchener/Waterloo (+1,215 movements), Red Deer Regional (+1,117) and Toronto/Buttonville Municipal, Ontario (+1,046). The biggest decreases were recorded at Langley (-742) and Calgary/Springbank (-663).

During the month, 84 airports reported 44,345 transborder (between Canada and the United States) itinerant movements, up 5.5% from the level reported in June 2017. The largest increases were observed at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International, Ontario (+527 movements), Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International, Quebec (+476) and Vancouver International, British Columbia (+375). The biggest decreases in transborder traffic were recorded at Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City, Ontario (-53) and Penticton, British Columbia (-30).

In June 2018, 40 airports reported a total of 15,174 other international itinerant movements, up 8.3% from the same period the previous year. Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International was the busiest airport with 6,703 movements, followed by Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International (3,397 movements) and Vancouver International (2,938). Together, these three airports accounted for 85.9% of all other international itinerant movements during the month.

Factors which may have influenced the data

As of June 30, 2018, the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, Inc. reported 558 fires covering 46,569 hectares across British Columbia. At the end of June 2017, the agency had reported 247 fires covering 1,642 hectares. By June 20, the B.C. Wildfire Service was responding to 72 new wildfires in the Prince George and Northwest Fire Centres, many believed to have been started by lightning strikes.

On June 29, 2018, WestJet added non-stop flights between Whitehorse, Yukon and Calgary International Airport, Alberta. The summer service runs four times per week until September 2, 2018. Since 2012, the airline had operated these seasonal flights from Vancouver International, British Columbia.

On June 26, 2018, Island Express Air had its license reinstated by Transport Canada after having it suspended on February 28. The airline provides scheduled flights to cities in British Columbia, including Abbotsford, Vancouver, Victoria and Nanaimo and also provides charter services to destinations in Canada and the United States.

On June 22, 2018, Air Canada Rouge began non-stop service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International, Ontario and Nanaimo. Flights will go four times per week until October 8, 2018.

On June 21, 2018, WestJet Link, a new regional air service in Western Canada, took flight. The service will operate under a capacity purchase agreement with British Columbia-based Pacific Coastal Airlines Ltd. WestJet Link will connect the Alberta communities of Lethbridge, Lloydminster and Medicine Hat and the B.C. communities of Cranbrook and Prince George to WestJet's network hub at Calgary International Airport.

On June 21, 2018, Air Canada Rouge began direct flights from Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International to Kamloops Airport, British Columbia. Flights will operate three times per week until October 9, 2018, at which time it will be reviewed to determine whether it will continue.

On June 20, 2018, WestJet's discount airline, Swoop, departed on its maiden flight from Hamilton, Ontario to Abbotsford. The airline will initially fly out of Hamilton, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Edmonton, Alberta, Halifax, Nova Scotia and Abbotsford, with additional destinations eventually being added.

On June 15, 2018, FlyGTA began seasonal service from Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City, Ontario to Muskoka Airport, Ontario. Flights will take place three times per week and will continue until October, 2018.

On June 15, 2018, Alaska Seaplanes commenced international service from Juneau, Alaska, to Whitehorse. Service will operate three times per week on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

On June 15, 2018, Air Canada Rouge inaugurated new summer seasonal service from Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International, Quebec to Lisbon, Portugal. Flights will occur three times per week until October 27, 2018.

On June 15, 2018, Flair Airlines expanded its route network to begin flying from Halifax/Robert L. Stanfield Airport, Nova Scotia; Saskatoon/John G. Diefenbaker International, Saskatchewan; Calgary International; Prince George Airport and Victoria International, both in British Columbia. This brings its operation from 90 flights per week to 208 flights per week.

On June 8, 2018, Air Canada Rouge launched service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Porto, Portugal. Service will run four times weekly until October 26, 2018.

On June 7, 2018, Air Canada Rouge launched service between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International and Bucharest, Hungary. Service will operate twice weekly until October 4, 2018.

On June 7, 2018, American Airlines began new daily service from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, Illinois, to Calgary International.

On June 6, 2018, Ukraine International Airlines began non-stop service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Kyev, Ukraine. Flights will depart Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

On June 3, 2018, Air Canada Rouge launched service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Bucharest. Service will run twice weekly until October 7, 2018.

On June 2, 2018, Air Canada Rouge launched service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Zagreb, Croatia. Service will run four times weekly until October 6, 2018.

On June 1 and 2, 2018, Air Canada began new non-stop flights from Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International to Shannon, Ireland, and from Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International to Dublin, Ireland, respectively. The flights will be operated using Air Canada's newest single-aisle aircraft, the Boeing 737 MAX 8.

By May 31, 2018, the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, Inc. reported 258 fires covering 37,426 hectares across British Columbia. In 2017, the agency recorded 128 fires covering 146 hectares by the end of May. By May 29, 2018, wildfires in the Tommy Lakes area, north of Fort St. John, had grown to over 19,000 hectares. Water bombers and bucketing helicopters aided in the fire suppression efforts. On May 30, 2018, the B.C. Wildfire Service reported the Allie Lake fire, northwest of Kamloops, to be 100 percent contained. Firefighters and air support worked around the clock to bring the fire, which covered more than 2700 hectares, under control.

On May 31, 2018, WestJet began daily, direct flights from Halifax/Robert L. Stanfield Airport to Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, France.

On May 25, 2018, Hainan Airlines began twice-weekly service between Vancouver International Airport and Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport, via Tianjin Binhai International Airport, both in China.

On May 18, 2018, a privately owned Boeing 747 Special Performance aircraft - the second largest plane to ever land at Kelowna Airport, British Columbia - touched down. The plane arrived for maintenance at the airport.

On May 17, 2018, Air Canada launched daily, non-stop flights between Vancouver International and Sacramento International Airport, California.

On May 17, 2018, Air Canada began daily flights between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International and Pittsburgh International Airport, Pennsylvania.

On May 13, 2018, a forest fire began at Caddy Lake, Manitoba. The province dispatched five water bombers from Gimli, Manitoba assisted by two more from Kenora, Ontario.

On May 12, 2018, an emergency alert was issued for Mackenzie County, Alberta, where nine wildfires were burning in the High Level forest area. The wildfires temporarily closed highways and had some residents on standby for a possible evacuation. By May 13, the fires were under control and the state of emergency was cancelled.

On May 10, 2018, Harbour Air began service between Vancouver Harbour and Tofino, both in British Columbia. The flights operate once per day from Thursday to Monday.

On May 8, 2018, Transport Canada issued a release stating that Saskatchewan-based West Wind Aviation was cleared to fly again, after having its operator's certificate suspended in December 2017.

From May 7 until May 31, 2018, Medicine Hat Airport, Alberta, was closed for the rehabilitation of the main runway and taxiway pavement surfaces. The airport reopened on May 31.

Starting May 7, 2018, Integra Air suspended their daily flights in Alberta, between Lethbridge and Edmonton.

On May 4, 2018, American Airlines increased its frequency between Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier International, Ontario and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from two to three flights daily.

On May 4, 2018, American Airlines added daily service from Vancouver International to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

On May 4, 2018, severe thunderstorms hit southern Ontario, with winds exceeding 100km/h. All airplanes were grounded for the afternoon at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International.

Starting May 1, 2018, Air Transat resumed year-round service from Québec/Jean Lesage International, Quebec and Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris.The flight will operate four times weekly throughout the summer. The route had been temporarily suspended in May, 2017.

In May, 2018, several forest fires burned in northwestern Ontario, including Kenora, Red Lake, Sioux Lookout, and Thunder Bay. By May 24, the forest fire risk remained high across most of the region, with an extreme hazard in the Red Lake district.

In April, 2018, an out of control forest fire burned near the community of Badger, Manitoba. By the end of April, the fire had burned more than 1,500 hectares, and the province battled the fire with five ground crews, two helicopters, heavy equipment and a tanker package that included two water bombers and air traffic control. Additional water bombers from Kenora and Dryden were provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

On April 29, 2018, WestJet began daily, direct, seasonal service between Halifax/Robert L. Stanfield Airport and London's Gatwick Airport, Great Britain.

On April 28, 2018, WestJet ended its service between St. John's International, Newfoundland and Labrador and London's Gatwick Airport. The service had been first announced in September 2015.

On April 27, 2018, it was announced that Toronto/Buttonville Municipal Airport, Ontario would continue operating until at least 2023.

On April 26, 2018, British Columbia-based Harbour Air and Washington State-based Kenmore Air began a new seaplane service between Vancouver Harbour Flight Centre and Seattle Washington's Lake Union. The new service brings together two of the largest seaplane operations in the world. Kenmore Air is currently operating daily seaplane service between Seattle and Victoria.

On April 14 and 15, 2018, southern and central Ontario were hit with freezing rain, ice pellets and strong winds. Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport cancelled all departing flights and received only one arrival on April 15, while more than 600 flights were cancelled at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International. Dozens of flights were also cancelled or delayed at Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier International. By April 16, over 100 000 residents were without power across southern Ontario.

On April 14, 2018, Porter Airlines increased its service to Stephenville, Newfoundland and Labrador; offering a total of 50 round trip flights between Stephenville and Halifax between April and January 5, 2019. The flights will also connect with Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier International and Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City on the same aircraft.

On March 30, 2018, a snowfall warning was issued for southern Alberta, with unseasonably cold temperatures, gusting winds and snowfall expected.

Starting March 24, 2018, Icelandair resumed flights, four times per week, from Edmonton to Reykjavik, Iceland. Previously, for most of 2017, the flights were six times per week.

On March 21, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a snowfall warning for much of the province of Alberta. A total of 10-15 centimetres was expected in Edmonton, Grand Prairie, Hanna, and Leduc.

From March 18 to March 24, 2018, Hay River and Fort Smith, both in the Northwest Territories, hosted the 2018 Arctic Winter Games. Nearly 2000 athletes from Alaska, Greenland, northern Alberta, the Northwest Territories, Nunavik, Nunavut, Russia, Scandinavia and the Yukon participated in 19 different sports. Alaska Airlines provided several charter flights between Anchorage, Alaska and Yellowknife, Northwest Territories to transport Team Alaska.

During the weeks of March 17 and March 25, 2018, Celebrity Cruises offered seven-day, all-inclusive flight and cruise packages (with partner First Air) from Moncton/Greater Moncton International, New Brunswick to either Miami or West Palm Beach, both in Florida.

On March 15, 2018, Orca Airways, based out of Vancouver International, had its operator certificate suspended, prohibiting the company from providing commercial air services. Calgary, Alberta-based Integra Air took over the operation of Orca Airways flights.

On March 15, 2018, WestJet began service between Vancouver International Airport and Mexico City, Mexico. Flights will go three times weekly until April 29, when it will move to daily service.

On March 14, 2018, WestJet marked its inaugural flight from Calgary International Airport to Mexico City. Service will run four times weekly until April 29, when it will move to daily service.

On March 14, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a winter storm warning for southern Alberta. Air Canada and WestJet issued travel warnings for Calgary International Airport.

Between March 10 and March 16, 2018, Medicine Hat-based Super T Aviation was offering free 15 minute flights to females in honour of women in aviation week.

On March 8, 2018, WestJet became the first Canadian airline to fly non-stop to Denver International Airport, Colorado from Calgary. The new service will operate daily.

Starting March 7, 2018, Air Transat will be offering flights from Fredericton International, New Brunswick to Puerto Plata and Punta Cana, both in the Dominican Republic.

Starting March 2, 2018, Air Transat added a new flight from Windsor, Ontario to Cancun, Mexico, departing on Fridays. The service will run until the end of April.

On March 1, 2018, the province of Alberta issued a province wide travel advisory due to heavy snowfall or winter storm warnings. Accumulations of 15-25 centimetres were expected in some regions.

Starting in March 2018, WestJet began service expansions on a number of domestic routes. From Calgary, some of these frequency increases include: Abbotsford, Kelowna and Nanaimo, all in British Columbia; Fort McMurray and Grand Prairie, both in Alberta and Halifax. From Edmonton, some of the expansions include: Fort McMurray and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. From Vancouver: Fort St. John, Kelowna and Victoria, and from Toronto, Ontario: Saskatoon and Victoria.

On February 23, 2018, an Island Express Air aircraft carrying 10 people slid off the runway at Abbotsford. On February 28, the company's air operator certificate was suspended.

Effective February 22, 2018, Central Mountain Air discontinued its daily flights between Comox, British Columbia and Vancouver International. The airline had been connecting the two cities for the last 20 years.

On February 22, 2018, Air Canada Rouge began service between Phoenix Sky Harbour International Airport, Arizona, and Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International. Flights will go three times per week until May 28, 2018.

On February 20, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a rainfall warning for the Ottawa, Ontario area, with up to 40 millimetres of rain expected to fall over two days.

On February 20, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a rainfall warning and fog advisory for London, Ontario.

On February 19, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a special weather statement for Toronto, predicting significant rainfall for the following day.

On February 15, 2018, American Airlines increased service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and New York LaGuardia, New York, from four flights daily to five.

On February 14, 2018, a small plane crash-landed on the main runway at Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, which closed the runway for approximately two hours.

Beginning February 14, 2018, Porter Airlines resumed its seasonal service from Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Flights will operate twice weekly on Wednesdays and Saturdays, with added frequency during March break. The service concludes on May 19, 2018.

On February 14, 2018, Sunwing began service between Fredericton International Airport and Punta Cana.

On February 13, 2018, Imperial Oil notified Transport Canada about possible quality-control issues with aviation fuel that had been produced at its Strathcona refinery near Edmonton since December 28, 2017. The fuel was mainly sold in western Canada and is used for small piston-based planes and some helicopters. As a result, recreational flyers, medevac flights and flying schools may have been affected.

On February 13, 2018, Sunwing began flights from Fredericton International to Cayo Coco and Cayo Santa Maria, both in Cuba.

On February 12, 2018, Sunwing began flights from Fredericton International to Cancun.

On February 11, 2018, a freezing rain warning was issued for Ottawa, with several hours of freezing rain expected in the afternoon.

On February 10, 2018, Sunwing began Saturday flight service from Saint John, New Brunswick to Varadero, Cuba. The service will operate until May 5. The previous year, Sunwing had operated flights from Saint John to both Cayo Coco and Punta Cana during the same time period.

On February 10, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a freezing rain warning for Toronto and the GTA. Snow began to fall on February 9 with between 5 and 10 centimetres accumulation, and it was expected that freezing rain would begin in the morning of February 11 and last into the evening.

On February 9, 2018, Calgary-based Integra Air ended passenger service to Medicine Hat. The airline had been operating weekday direct flights to Edmonton International, Alberta since August, 2016.

On February 8, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a winter storm warning in Ontario for Windsor, Essex County and Chatham-Kent, warning that between 15-20 centimetres of snow could fall by the evening of February 9.

On February 6, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued multiple winter storm warnings and watches for western, central and southern Alberta. Widespread snowfall with total amounts of 25-40 centimetres was to begin February 7 and last until February 9.

In early February, 2018, Cargojet began operating scheduled international freighter service between Canada and South America and added a second frequency between Canada and Europe. The scheduled flights are as follows: Hamilton to/from Bogota, Columbia and Lima, Peru (via Atlanta, Georgia), operating Fridays and Sundays; Hamilton to/from Cologne, Germany, operating on Saturdays.

On January 28, 2018, a heavy rain warning was issued for the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. According to Environment and Climate Change Canada, 40 to 50 millimeters of rain were expected to fall at the Pitt Meadows airport by the end of the day.

On January 14, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a fog advisory for Metro Vancouver, warning of near zero visibility. The advisory covered all of Metro Vancouver, extending to west and north Vancouver, southwest and east to Richmond, Delta, Surrey and Langley, and northeast to Coquitlam and Maple Ridge.

On January 13, 2018, a major winter storm with rain, wind and snow affected eastern Canada from southern Ontario to Atlantic Canada.

On January 12, 2018, snowy winter weather and freezing temperatures resulted in the cancellation of more than 200 departures (20%) and 159 arrivals (18%) at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International Airport.

On January 11, 2018, hazardous winter conditions were expected in the Fraser Valley in British Columbia as Environment and Climate Change Canada extended a winter storm warning. The storm occurred less than two weeks after ice and snow caused major power outages throughout the valley. At one point more than 50,000 customers were without power in the region.

On January 10, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a freezing rain warning for eastern Ontario. In response, Air Canada warned passengers of possible delays due to the expectation of up to 4 millimeters of freezing rain.

On January 4, 2018, a powerful winter storm, or "bomb cyclone" hit the northeastern United States and Atlantic Canada, causing thousands of flight cancellations at various airports. Snowfall accumulation in parts of New Brunswick peaked at 60 cm. By the morning of January 4, flights in and out of U.S. cities impacted by the storm had caused approximately 15% of all flights to be cancelled at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International. All flights were suspended at New York's John F. Kennedy and LaGuardia Airports. Flights from most airports resumed on January 5, however there were still numerous delays and cancellations. By January 7, many airports were still struggling to cope with a backlog of flights.

On January 2, 2018, as the deep freeze continued, Air Canada extended the alert to January 4, 2018.

On January 1, 2018, Air Canada issued a travel alert for passengers using airports in Toronto, Montréal, Calgary and Ottawa due to a deep freeze that brought extreme cold, snow, and icy conditions. Nearly 500 flights at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International were either delayed or cancelled.

In early January, 2018, Air New Zealand increased capacity on its Vancouver International route, moving from seven to eight weekly flights.

Starting in January 2018, Icelandair suspended flights between Edmonton and Reykjavik until late March 2018. Prior to a reduction of flights which began in November 2017, the airline had flights 6 times per week.

On December 31, 2017, Air Canada and Cargojet concluded their freighter partnership first announced in November 2016. The carriers had operated a scheduled freighter service to and from: Mexico City; Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas; Atlanta; Bogota; Lima and Frankfurt, Germany. In a statement, Air Canada stated they would be increasing the freight capacity on its newly added daily 767 passenger flights between Canada and Mexico, and three additional weekly frequencies between Canada and Lima in 2018.

On December 29, 2017, WestJet began service from Hamilton to Las Vegas, Nevada. This seasonal service will run twice weekly until April 27, 2018.

On December 29, 2017, Air Canada advised passengers that flights at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City may be impacted due to the extreme cold weather conditions.

On December 28, 2017, WestJet issued an alert effective for Toronto until January 1, 2018, advising passengers that the weather conditions may cause delays or cancellations.

On December 28, 2017, freezing rain fell throughout the Fraser Valley in British Columbia. The weather resulted in some flight delays at Abbotsford. By the next day the freezing rain warning was extended to Metro Vancouver, especially in Surrey and Langley.

On December 26, 2017, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued extreme cold warnings for most of Alberta, the Prairies, Ontario and Western Quebec. The cold conditions were predicted to last until the weekend.

On December 23, 2017, Air Transat started service from Hamilton to Cancun and Puerto Plata.

On December 22, 2017, Sunwing began their seasonal service from Sault Ste. Marie Airport, Ontario to Punta Cana. Service will run until April 20, 2018.

On December 22, 2017, Air Transat began service from Hamilton to Cayo Coco and Puerto Plata.

On December 21, 2017, Sunwing began weekly flights from Mont-Joli, Quebec to Punta Cana. Service will operate until March 22, 2018.

On December 21, 2017, Air Transat started seasonal service from Hamilton to Punta Cana.

On December 21, 2017, Air Transat began service from London to Cancun and Riviera Maya, both in Mexico. This seasonal service will run once per week until April 5, 2018.

On December 21, 2017, Porter Airlines resumed twice weekly winter service to Burlington, Vermont, from Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport. This seasonal service will operate until March 27, 2018.

On December 20, 2017, Air Transat began service from London to Punta Cana and Santo Domingo, both in the Dominican Republic. This seasonal service will run once per week until April 11, 2018.

On December 20, 2017, Sunwing started seasonal service from Hamilton to Varadero.

On December 20, 2017, Sunwing began direct service from London to Cayo Coco. The service will operate until March 28, 2018.

On December 18, 2017, WestJet began service from Moncton/Greater Moncton International, to Orlando, Florida. This seasonal service will run until April 23, 2018.

On December 18, 2017, Sunwing began service from London to Montego Bay, Jamaica. This seasonal service will run once per week until March 26, 2018.

On December 18, 2017, Air Canada operated its inaugural flight from Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International Airport to Cartagena, Columbia. Since the beginning of December, Air Canada also began operation of the following new services: Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International to Belize; Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International to Lima and Vancouver International to both Melbourne, Australia and Yellowknife.

On December 17, 2017, Sunwing began its seasonal service from Victoria International Airport to Los Cabos, Mexico. Service will run through April 8, 2018.

On December 17, 2017, Sunwing began its first ever vacation packages from Abbotsford. Service from Abbotsford to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, will run weekly until April 8, 2018.

On December 17, 2017, Sunwing started seasonal service from Hamilton to Montego Bay.

On December 17, 2017, Philippine Airlines (PAL) launched its first non-stop direct flight from Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International Airport to Manila, Philippines. PAL said it will operate non-stop Manila-Toronto and Toronto-Manila flights on a regular, four times per week schedule.

On December 16, 2017, Sunwing began seasonal service from Victoria International to Puerto Vallarta. The Saturday departures will go until April 7, 2018.

On December 16, 2017, Synergy Aviation Flight Training held its inaugural "Soarin' with Santa" event at the Edmonton/Villeneuve Airport, Alberta.

On December 16, 2017, Porter Airlines added non-stop weekly flights from Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier International Airport and from Windsor to Orlando Melbourne International Airport, Florida. These are Porter's first U.S. flights from airports outside of its main base at Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport. The service will run until March 31, 2018.

Starting December 15, 2017, Air Canada began daily non-stop service between Yellowknife and Vancouver International Airport, British Columbia. The flights will continue until April 1, 2018.

On December 15, 2017, Flair Air expanded its service to four new airports: Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International; Vancouver International; Kelowna and Edmonton International, operating several times per week.

On December 14, 2017, Sunwing began service from London to Varadero. This seasonal service will run once per week until April 5, 2018.

On December 14, 2017, WestJet Encore began daily service from Vancouver International to Comox and Nanaimo.

On December 8, 2017, Porter Airlines began winter service between Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport and Mont Tremblant, Quebec. Flights are available until April 2, 2018, with service up to five times weekly.

Between December 7 and December 14, 2017, Air Canada reported that fog and low cloud ceilings at Castlegar Airport, British Columbia, caused 55 out of 56 flights to be cancelled.

On December 2, 2017, WestJet began service from London to Orlando. This seasonal service will run once per week until April 28, 2018.

On December 1, 2017, Air Canada began the first ever non-stop flights between Canada and Melbourne. The seasonal service will run from Vancouver International Airport four times per week until February 4, 2018.

In December 2017, West Wind Aviation, based in Saskatoon, Stony Rapids and La Ronge, all in Saskatchewan, voluntarily suspended all flying operations.

Starting in December 2017, Air Transat began to fly the bulk of its winter service schedule to Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America. Some of the seasonal destinations which began during the month included the following: Edmonton to Huatulco, Mexico (ends March 5, 2018); Montréal to Santo Domingo; Ottawa to Samana, Dominican Republic; Quebec City, Quebec to Cayo Coco; Sault Ste. Marie to Punta Cana. Unless otherwise indicated these services end in April 2018. The airline increased the frequency, until March 2018, on the following routes: Montréal to Liberia, Costa Rica and San Salvador, El Salvador; Toronto to Managua, Nicaragua and Liberia. The frequency of flights was also increased from Vancouver to: Los Cabos (two flights), Puerto Vallarta (five flights) and Cancun (three flights), all ending in April 2018.

For the winter of 2017-2018, WestJet ended its non-stop flight from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island to Orlando, which had operated since 2015.

On November 21, 2017, college students across Ontario returned to class after the longest college faculty strike (5 weeks) in the province's history. Activity at several airports was impacted as flights operated by college aviation programs in Ontario were affected.

On November 13, 2017, it was announced that Sarliaq Aviation, a Nunavut-based company, in partnership with Quebec transporter Nolinor Aviation, had signed a 10-year agreement with Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. to provide air transportation for employees and cargo from Montréal and Abitibi-Temiscamingue, Quebec to the company's mining projects in the Kivalliq region in Nunavut. The new agreement will add flights to Rankin Inlet, in addition to Nolinor's existing transport to Agnico Eagle's Meadowbank open-pit gold mine, near Baker Lake. In all, Nolinor will be providing 416 flights per year, or eight flights per week to Nunavut.

On November 11, 2017, WestJet began seasonal service from Abbotsford to Puerto Vallarta.

On November 8, 2017, low visibility prompted the cancellation of 44 flights at Kelowna Airport.

On November 8, 2017, due to the impact of Hurricane Maria, Air Canada announced it would be suspending all flights to Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico for the 2017-2018 winter season.

On November 7, 2017, flights were grounded at Goose Bay Airport, Newfoundland and Labrador, after snow clearing crews noticed that material used to seal cracks in the runway was coming loose and sticking to tires. Commercial flights by PAL Airlines, Air Borealis and Air Canada were all affected. The runways reopened on Friday, November 10.

On November 6, 2017, FlyGTA Airlines added daily service from Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport to Barrie-Orillia-Lake Simcoe Regional Airport, Ontario and to the Kitchener/Waterloo Airport, Ontario.

On November 3, 2017, one of two new flight options from Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International Airport to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia began, as Ethiopian Airlines marked five years of service between the two cities. In December 2017, the airline will add one more, increasing the weekly departures from three to five.

Starting November 3, 2017 WestJet resumed service between from Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier and Tampa, Florida.

Effective November 3, 2017, WestJet began new non-stop weekly service between Calgary International Airport and Belize City, Belize.

On November 2, 2017, WestJet began non-stop service from Edmonton International Airport and Huatulco.

In November 2017, Icelandair increased their seasonal service from Vancouver International to Iceland to a full year-round schedule.

Beginning in November 2017, WestJet began seasonal service between Hamilton and Orlando.

In November 2017, Air Transat began its seasonal service from Vancouver. The airline has flights to: Punta Cana; Cancun; Los Cabos and Puerto Vallarta which will continue until April 2018.

In November 2017, Sunwing Airlines introduced seasonal non-stop flights from Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International to Antigua, Antigua and Barbuda (beginning November 26), Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International to Antigua (beginning November 10) and Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International to Cayo Largo, Cuba (beginning November 7).

Starting in November 2017, Air Canada changed the frequency and routing for its overseas flights between Halifax/Robert L. Stanfield Airport and London Heathrow, United Kingdom. The previously scheduled 4 times per week Halifax-London Heathrow flights were reduced to two weekly flights operating as Halifax-St. John's International-London Heathrow.

On October 29, 2017, WestJet began new non-stop weekly service between Vancouver International Airport and Huatulco. The service is part of the airline's seasonal schedule for the winter of 2017-2018.

Starting the week of October 29, 2017, WestJet added an additional eight weekly flights between Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier International Airport and Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International Airport, bringing the total to 85 weekly flights. Additionally, WestJet's seasonal summer service of six weekly flights between Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier International Airport and Edmonton International Airport will now operate year-round. It previously offered the direct flights only between May and October.

Beginning on October 28, 2017, Korean Air Cargo launched regular scheduled, once weekly service to Edmonton International Airport, with a Boeing 747-8 freighter.

On October 27, 2017, due to the impact of Hurricane Maria on the island, Air Canada announced it had suspended all flights to Princess Juliana International Airport, St. Maarten for the 2017-2018 winter season. Other Canadian carriers also announced that they would be suspending flights for the fall-winter 2017-2018 season.

On October 26, 2017, Mexican low-cost carrier Interjet launched service to Vancouver International. The airline will operate four weekly flights each on Cancun-Vancouver and Mexico City-Vancouver routing.

On October 25, 2017, Delta Airlines terminated the daily flight between Québec/Jean Lesage International Airport and John F. Kennedy Airport.

On October 15, 2017, WestJet commenced twice daily service between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport and Boston Logan International Airport, Massachusetts.

On October 10, 2017, an Antonov An-124 landed at Thunder Bay Airport, Ontario for the second time since August, 2017. It was the largest aircraft that has ever landed at this airport and was carrying parts for the Bombardier assembly line.

On October 10, 2017, Oshawa Airport, Ontario reopened after a runway rehabilitation project, which had both runways at the airport closed for five weeks.

On October 4, 2017, American Airlines ended seasonal service between Québec/Jean Lesage International and Philadelphia. The service began on June 2, 2017.

The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc. reported 5,305 fires covering 3,456,768 hectares as of September 30, 2017. This is an increase of 412 fires and 453,394 hectares from one month earlier and an increase of 620 fires and 2,067,873 hectares from the same time last year.

On September 21, 2017, Porter Airlines flew its inaugural non-stop flight from Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier International Airport to Saint John Airport. The flight will be operated daily with a 74-seat Bombardier Q400 aircraft.

On September 20, 2017, Porter Airlines ended its daily non-stop service from Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport to Pittsburgh International Airport. The service had originally started on September 21, 2015 with two flights per day.

On September 20, 2017, Global Affairs Canada issued a statement regarding Hurricane Maria's progress through the Caribbean, urging Canadians in areas with an "avoid all travel" advisory to leave by commercial means while they were still available. As a result of the hurricane, many scheduled flights were cancelled and rescue flights added to bring Canadians home.

On September 15, 2017, the British Columbia government lifted a provincial state of emergency declared more than two months earlier for what would become the province's worst fire season on record. The declaration was made July 7 after dozens of out-of-control wildfires broke out in B.C.'s interior, forcing thousands of people from their homes. As of September 15, there were still 155 fires burning in B.C. and 11 evacuation orders were in place.

On September 12, 2017, Porter Airlines began daily service from Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier International Airport to Fredericton International Airport.

On September 11, 2017, Porter Airlines concluded its service to and from North Bay, Ontario's Jack Garland Airport. The airline had been flying to North Bay since 2015.

On September 11, 2017, PAL Airlines began regular flights from Wabush, Newfoundland and Labrador to Mont-Joli. Flights are offered once per day on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

On September 5, 2017, due to Hurricane Irma, Global Affairs Canada's Travel Advice and Advisories raised their warning level to "avoid all travel" for the following destinations: Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saba, St. Eustatius and Sint Maarten, Saint Martin, St. Barthelemy, Guadeloupe, British Virgin Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Vieques and Culebra. As a result, many flights out of Canada were cancelled and additional rescue flights were added to bring Canadian travellers home.

On September 5, 2017, a runway rehabilitation project began at Oshawa Airport, which saw both runways at the airport closed for 35 days.

In September 2017, Alkan Air, an airline originally based in the Yukon, specializing in medical flights and charters, opened a new hangar and second base of operations at Nanaimo. The airline had already been operating medical flights out of Nanaimo since late 2015, primarily for travel insurance companies for Canadians who become injured or fall ill on vacation. In addition to these medical flights, the airline will also use the Nanaimo location to fly workers from the Island to a mine in the Yukon. The company further announced its intention to expand its service to include corporate charters to Vancouver and Seattle.

The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc. reported 4,893 fires covering 3,003,374 hectares as of August 31, 2017. This represents an increase of 1,739 fires and 1,872,650 hectares from a month earlier. In 2016, the agency had recorded 4,832 fires covering 1,390,375 hectares by August 31.

In the summer of 2017, a new tour company, Fly ToTo Flight Escapes, based out of the Toronto/Buttonville Municipal Airport began to offer flights to popular Ontario attractions and destinations.

In late August 2017, hurricane Harvey caused the cancellation of 25 WestJet flights to and from George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas.

On August 22, 2017, hundreds of firefighters and dozens of aircraft were working to contain one of the largest wildfires ever recorded in British Columbia. Nineteen wildfires covering 467,000 hectares in the provinces interior merged together. The Plateau fire stretched 130 kilometers from one end to the other.

On August 18, 2017, the province of British Columbia extended its state of emergency until September 1. The extension is in response to 138 wildfires burning and approximately 25,000 people under either evacuation orders or alerts.

On August 18, 2017, the province of Alberta reported 28 wildfires. In response, the province was using 200 firefighters, two special teams of incident management personnel, 21 helicopters, an air tanker crew and various pieces of heavy equipment to address the situation. The majority of the fires, including 5 listed as being out of control, were in the High Level Forest area.

On August 14, 2017, Wasaya Airways, based at Thunder Bay, launched new twice daily, non-stop service to Sandy Lake, Manitoba and Pikangikum, Ontario First Nations from Winnipeg/James Armstrong Richardson International, Manitoba and announced it would increase the frequency of flights between Winnipeg and Sioux Lookout.

Operation NANOOK 2017, Canada's annual northern sovereignty operation, took place between August 12 and August 27. The Canadian Armed Forces deployed land, maritime and air components in two locations in the North: Rankin Inlet and northern Labrador.

On August 12, 2017, weather and reduced staffing at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International Airport caused delays and dozens of flight cancellations.

On August 11, 2017, the province of British Columbia declared 2017 to be the worst wildfire season since record keeping began in 1950. Since April 1, 2017, 894,491 hectares had burned. The previous record of 855,000 hectares was established in 1958. More than 3,800 personnel were engaged in combating the fires, with additional crews from New Zealand, Mexico and the United States due to arrive shortly.

On August 1, 2017, The Williams Lake Airport, British Columbia was re-opened for regular travel. Although fully manned, the airport had been closed to all activity except for fire suppression since July 7, 2017.

The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc. reported 3,154 fires covering 1,130,724 hectares as of July 31, 2017. This represents an increase of 1,514 fires and 960,048 hectares from a month earlier. In 2016, the agency had recorded 3,969 fires encompassing 1,293,072 hectares by the end of July.

In early July 2017, numerous wild fires broke out in British Columbia. The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc. reported 821 fires in the province, covering 426,022 hectares as of July 31. In response, the province declared a state of emergency, issued evacuation orders and deployed aircraft to several regions to assist in the fire suppression activities.

In July 2017, Conair Group, based at Abbotsford, provided 26 aircraft to battle fires burning in British Columbia in such places as Cache Creek, 100 Mile House, Williams Lake and Princeton.

On July 18, 2017, De Beers Canada inaugurated a direct flight from Calgary International Airport to Gahcho Kué Mine in the Northwest Territories. The employee charter flight will take place twice per week on a year-round basis.

On July 13, 2017, Elite Airways began twice weekly non-stop service from Halifax/Robert L. Stanfield International Airport to Portland, Maine with an option for passengers to continue to Sarasota-Bradenton, Florida.

On July 10, 2017, three additional air tanker crews from Air Spray Ltd., based out of Red Deer Regional Airport, Alberta, were deployed into British Columbia, The increase is in addition to the three crews already contracted to the British Columbia government for the 2017 fire season.

On July 10, 2017 the Canadian Forces confirmed the movement of three Griffon helicopters into Kelowna with larger fixed wing aircraft to arrive shortly thereafter. The aircraft will be on standby, to assist in firefighting efforts if needed.

On July 10 and July 18, 2017, smoke from numerous wildfires burning in British Columbia's interior caused delays and a handful of cancellations at Kamloops Airport.

On July 9, 2017, Central Mountain Air commenced service between Edmonton International Airport and Prince George. Flights will operate six days a week.

On July 7, 2017, the province of British Columbia closed the airspace of the Williams Lake Airport to all service with the exception of fire suppression efforts.

On July 1, 2017, Air Canada Rouge began non-stop, seasonal service between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport and Algiers, Algeria. The flights are offered four times per week.

On July 1, 2017, Air Canada launched a new three-times weekly service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Mumbai, India. This non-stop, year round service will be operated using a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner.

In June 2017, Air Canada Cargo launched new services between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International and Marseille, France, as well as extra flights between Canada and France (specifically, Lyon and Paris).

In June 2017, Air Canada Rouge added Iceland to its summer flight schedule, with flights operating four times and three times weekly from Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International Airport and Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, respectively.

On June 30, 2017, Hong Kong Airlines began daily flights between Vancouver International Airport and Hong Kong, China, with an A330 aircraft featuring 18 business class and 246 economy seats. The airline plans to introduce an A350 aircraft in August.

Commencing June 24, 2017 Cathay Pacific will increase the capacity of its summer service between Toronto/ Lester B. Pearson International Airport and Hong Kong, with the addition of 4 weekly flights. The service will continue until September 4, 2017.

On June 24, 2017, Air Canada Rouge began daily seasonal service between Victoria International Airport and Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International using a Boeing 767. With a capacity of 280 passengers it is the largest regularly scheduled airplane to operate out of the airport. Continuation of the service will be reviewed in the fall. The airline also operates daily direct service to Toronto using an Airbus.

Starting June 24, 2017, WestJet reduced the number of flights between Winnipeg/James Armstrong Richardson International and London's Gatwick Airport. The number of flights were cut down to 10, from 22 flights in 2016. The reduction in flights will be effective until August 26, 2017.

On June 23, 2017, Air Canada commenced service between Vancouver International Airport and Boston Logan International Airport. The non-stop seasonal flight will operate daily until September 4, 2017.

On June 16, 2017, Air Borealis began operations in Labrador. Together with PAL Airlines, the Innu Development Limited Partnership (IDLP) and the Nunatsiavut Group of Companies (NGC), this partnership operates seven DHC-6 Twin Otters and primarily serves communities on Labrador's north and south coasts. It also provides medical travel – both scheduled and medevac flights to both coasts for the regional health authority, Labrador Grenfell Health. IDLP previously owned Innu Mikun Airlines in Northern Labrador, while NGC owned Air Labrador.

On June 15, 2017, WestJet began point-to-point service for the first time within the province of Quebec, with four daily flights between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport and Québec/Jean Lesage International.

Starting mid-June 2017, EVA Air increased the frequency of its flights from Taipei, Taiwan to both Vancouver International and Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International to meet increasing demand. Daily non-stop service to Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, Taiwan from Vancouver began June 15 and Toronto June 16.

On June 9, 2017, after a 14 year hiatus, Air Canada resumed flights between Taipei and Vancouver International. The daily direct service will be flown using a Boeing 787-900 Dreamliner configured to carry 298 passengers.

On June 9, 2017, Air Canada Rouge launched its new route from Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International to Marseille. The seasonal non-stop service will operate three times a week for the summer.

On June 8, 2017, Air Canada Rouge began seasonal service from Vancouver International Airport to London's Gatwick Airport. The flights will operate three times a week.

On June 5, 2017, Pacific Coastal Airlines added a new flight in British Columbia between Kelowna and Victoria International Airport.

On June 1, 2017, Air Canada Rouge began service four times per week from Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International Airport to Berlin, Germany.

On June 1, 2017, Aeromexico launched non-stop service from Calgary International to Mexico City.

On June 1, 2017, Vancouver International Airport celebrated the inauguration of two new non-stop seasonal services; Air Canada's daily service to Frankfurt and Air Canada Rouge's three times a week service to Nagoya, Japan.